

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

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1. A data processing system implemented business method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:
 - receiving a bid order for a service contract, wherein the bid order originates from a bidder;
 - matching the bid order for a service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract, wherein a seller owns the corresponding service contract and the ask order originates from the seller; and
 - transferring ownership of the corresponding service contract to the bidder.
 2. The business method recited in claim 1 above, prior to transferring ownership of the corresponding service contract to the bidder further comprises:
 - conveying funds from the bidder to the seller.
 3. The business method recited in claim 1 above, wherein matching the bid order for a service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract further comprises identifying service contract options for the service contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder.
 4. The business method recited in claim 1 above, wherein the bid order includes a bid price and further wherein the bid order identifies service contract options for the service order including at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point.

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5. The business method recited in claim 1 above, wherein receiving a bid order for a service contract further comprises obtaining the bid order from a bidder's authorized intermediary, wherein the bidder's authorized intermediary represents the bidder.

6. The business method recited in claim 1 above, wherein the seller is represented by a seller's authorized intermediary.

7. The business method recited in claim 1 above, wherein matching the bid order for a service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract further comprises:

identifying service contract options for the service contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder, wherein the service contract options for the service order includes at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point;

searching a plurality of available service contracts for at least one corresponding service contract, wherein the corresponding service contract includes service contract options that correspond to the service contract which is the subject of the bid from the bidder;

identifying at least one corresponding service contract from the plurality of available service contract;

comparing a bid price associated with the bid order with each ask price associated with each ask order for the identified at least one corresponding service contract; and

identifying at least one corresponding service contract having a price match, wherein the ask price of the ask order associated with the at least one corresponding service contract is lower than or equal to the bid price associated with the bid order.

8. The business method recited in claim 2 above, wherein conveying funds from the bidder to the seller further comprises:

receiving notification of a price match between a bid order from a bidder and an ask order from a seller;

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debiting a bidder's authorized intermediary; and
crediting a seller's authorized intermediary.

9. The business method recited in claim 8 above, wherein transferring ownership of the corresponding service contract to the bidder further comprises:

receiving notification of funds being transferred from the bidder to the seller for the corresponding service contract;

accessing a title record for the corresponding service contract; and

updating the title record for the corresponding service contract to reflect the bidder as the owner of the corresponding service contract.

10. The business method recited in claim 1 above, further comprising:
issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

11. A data processing system implemented business method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving an ask order associated with a seller's service contract, wherein the ask order originates from a seller;

entering the ask order in a service contract database containing a plurality of ask orders, each ask order associated with a service contract;

receiving a bid order for a buyer's service contract;

searching the service contract database on the basis of the bid order;

matching the bid order to the ask order; and

recording ownership changes of the seller's service contract.

12. The business method recited in claim 11 above, wherein the ask order identifies the seller's service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes an ask price.

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13. The business method recited in claim 11 above, wherein receiving an ask order
2 associated with a seller's service contract further comprises:
3 receiving the seller's identity;
4 receiving an ask price from the ask order;
5 receiving a description of the seller's service contract including at least one of
6 service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point; and
7 receiving a title to the seller's service contract.
- 1 14. The business method recited in claim 11 above, further comprises:
2 transmitting an identity of the last owner of record to the seller.
- 1 15. The business method recited in claim 11 above, wherein transferring ownership of
2 the seller's service contract to the bidder further comprises:
3 issuing a certificate of title to a buyer.
- 1 16. The business method recited in claim 11 above, wherein receiving an ask order
2 associated with a seller's service contract further comprises:
3 receiving the seller's identity;
4 receiving a royalty owners identity;
5 receiving an ask price from the ask order; and
6 receiving a description of the seller's service contract including a royalty fee.
- 1 17. The business method recited in claim 11 above, prior to recording ownership of
2 the seller's service contract, method further comprises:
3 conveying funds for the seller's service contract.
- 1 18. The business method recited in claim 17 above, conveying funds for the seller's
2 service contract further comprises:
3 transferring funds from the buyer to the seller; and

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4 escrowing funds for a royalty owner based on a royalty fee.

1 19. The business method recited in claim 11, further comprises:
2 transmitting an identity of a last title holder of record to the seller.

1 20. The business method recited in claim 11, further comprises:
2 issuing a certificate of title to the buyer; and
3 transmitting an identity of the buyer to the seller.

1 21. A data processing system implemented business method for implementing a
2 service contract futures exchange, comprising:
3 receiving an ask order for a seller's service contract;
4 receiving a bid order for a buyer's service contract;
5 matching the bid order with the ask order;
6 in response to matching the bid order with the ask order, determining whether to
7 process the seller's service contract is in a cash market or a futures market; and
8 processing the seller's service contract based on whether the seller's service
9 contract is processed in a cash market or a futures market.

1 22. The business method recited in claim 21, wherein the seller's service contract is a
2 transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction;
3 transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and
4 leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services;
5 management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste
6 management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social
7 assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public
8 administration; and other services.

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1 23. The business method recited in claim 21, in response to the determination of
2 whether to process the seller's service contract in a cash market, processing the seller's
3 service contract further comprises:
4 transferring funds from the buyer to the seller; and
5 transferring tracking ownership of the seller's service contract to the buyer
6 following transferring funds from the buyer to the seller.

1 24. The business method recited in claim 21, in response to the determination of
2 whether to process the seller's service contract in a futures market, processing the seller's
3 service contract further comprises:
4 calculating mark to market time, wherein all futures service contracts are
5 processed at mark to market time;
6 determining whether present time is equal to mark to market time;
7 on the basis of present time being equal to mark to market time, transferring funds
8 from the buyer to the seller; and
9 transferring ownership of the seller's service contract to the buyer in response to
10 transferring funds from the buyer to the seller.

1 25. The business method recited in claim 21, wherein determining whether to process
2 the seller's service contract is in a cash market or a futures market further comprises:
3 getting a ripe time value for the seller's service contract, wherein the ripe time
4 value is an amount of time prior to delivery time that the seller's service contract must be
5 processed in a cash market;
6 determining a performance time value, wherein the performance time value is the
7 amount of time from the present time until delivery time and date of the seller's service
8 contract;
9 compare the performance time value with the ripe time value for the seller's
10 contract, wherein the seller's service contract is processed in a futures market only if the

Sub 9 11 performance time value is greater than the ripe time value, otherwise the seller's contract
12 is processed in a cash market.

1 26. A data processing system implemented business method for implementing a
2 service contract futures exchange, comprising:
3 receiving an ask order from a seller for a seller's service contract;
4 receiving a bid order from a buyer for a buyer's contract;
5 matching the bid order with the ask order;
6 transferring funds from the buyer to the seller in response to matching the bid
7 order with the ask order; and
8 transferring ownership of the seller's service contract to the buyer in response to
9 transferring funds from the buyer to the seller.

1 27. The business method recited in claim 26 above, wherein the buyer is the first
2 buyer, the bid order is the first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order, the buyer's
3 contract is a first buyer's contract and the business method further comprises:
4 receiving a second ask order from the buyer for the seller's service contract;
5 receiving a second bid order from a second buyer for a second buyer's contract;
6 matching the second bid order with the second ask order;
7 transferring funds from the second buyer to the first buyer in response to
8 matching the second bid order with the second ask order; and
9 transferring ownership of the seller's service contract to the second buyer in
10 response to transferring funds from the second buyer to the buyer.

1 28. The business method recited in claim 26 above, wherein receiving an ask order
2 and receiving a bid order further comprise electronically telecommunicating the
3 respective bid and ask orders.

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1 29. The business method recited in claim 26 above, wherein receiving an ask order
2 and receiving a bid order further comprise orally communicating the respective bid and
3 ask orders

1 30. The business method recited in claim 26 above, wherein matching the bid order
2 with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

1 31. The business method recited in claim 26 above, wherein matching the bid order to
2 the ask order is performed electronically.

1 32. The business method recited in claim 26 above, wherein receiving an ask order
2 from a seller is performed electronically by a seller's authorized intermediary and further
3 wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry
4 oral bargaining.

1 33. A data processing system implemented business method for implementing a
2 service contract futures exchange, comprising:
3 transmitting an ask order for a seller's service contract, wherein the ask order
4 identifies a seller's service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade,
5 delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the ask order includes an ask price;
6 receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order from a buyer
7 has matched the ask price; and
8 receiving sales funds for ownership of the seller's service contract, wherein the
9 sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price.

1 34. The business method recited in claim 33 above, wherein the seller's service
2 contract is a transferable instrument promising to provide a service at a future delivery
3 date and remote delivery point.

54017 35. The business method recited in claim 33 above, further comprising:
2 escrowing royalty funds for a royalty owner, wherein the royalty funds are equal
3 in amount to a royalty fee.

1 36. The business method recited in claim 34 above, further comprising:
2 receiving information as to an identity of the buyer;
3 receiving a demand for service from a demander;
4 identifying the demander;
5 confirming that the demander's identity matches the identity of the buyer; and
6 performing a service for the demander.

1 37. The business method recited in claim 34 above, further comprising:
2 receiving notification of an issuance of a seller's service contract certificate of
3 title, wherein the seller's service contract certificate of title is one of a transferable
4 instrument and a nontransferable instrument;
5 receiving a demand for service from a demander, wherein the demander bears a
6 certificate of title;
7 authenticating the certificate of title as the seller's service contract certificate of
8 title; and
9 performing a service for the demander.

1 38. The business method recited in claim 34 above, further comprising:
2 generating a second bid order for seller's service contract owned by the buyer,
3 wherein the second bid order includes a second bid price;
4 receiving a notification that the second bid order matched an ask order for the
5 seller's service contract; and
6 making available second sales funds for ownership of the seller's service contract,
7 wherein the second sales funds are equal in amount to a second ask price.

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39. A data processing system implemented business method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

- contracting for a secondary service from a secondary service provider;
- generating an ask order, wherein the ask order is for a seller's service contract and further wherein the ask order identifies a seller's service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and the ask order includes an ask price and a royalty fee amount;
- receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order from a buyer has matched the ask price; and
- receiving sales funds for ownership of the seller's service contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price less the royalty fee.

40. A data processing system implemented business method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

- transmitting a bid order for a buyer's service contract, wherein the bid order identifies a buyer's service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes a bid price;
- receiving an indication that an ask price associated with an ask order for a seller's service contract from a seller has matched the bid price; and
- transferring funds for ownership of the seller's service contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the bid price.

41. The business method recited in claim 40 above, further comprising:

- receiving an indication of ownership of the seller's service contract.

42. The business method recited in claim 40 above, further comprising:

- receiving a certificate of title for the seller's service contract, wherein the seller's service contract certificate of title is one of a transferable instrument entitling a bearer of the certificate of title to the seller's service upon demand.

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43. A data processing system implemented business method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:
- transmitting a conjunctive bid order, wherein the conjunctive bid order identifies at least two dissimilar service contracts to form the conjunctive service and further each service contract identifies at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the conjunctive bid order includes a conjunctive bid price comprising a separate bid price for each service contract;
 - receiving an indication that a first ask price associated with a first ask order for a first seller's service contract from a first seller has matched one bid price from the conjunctive order;
 - receiving an indication that a last ask price associated with a last ask order for a last seller's service contract from a last seller has matched a last bid price from the conjunctive order, thereby completely matching the conjunctive bid order; and
 - transferring funds for ownership of the first seller's service contract and the last seller's service contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the conjunctive bid price.
44. A data processing system implemented business method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:
- receiving at least one bid order and at least one ask order for a service contract, wherein the service contract is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services;
 - matching the at least one bid order to the at least one ask order for a service contract, wherein a basis for matching is price of the service contract.

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1 45. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
2 comprising:

3 receiving means for receiving a bid order for a service contract, wherein the bid
4 order originates from a bidder;

5 matching means for matching the bid order for a service contract with an ask
6 order for a corresponding service contract, wherein a seller owns the corresponding
7 service contract and the ask order originates from the seller; and

8 transferring means for transferring ownership of the corresponding service
9 contract to the bidder.

1 46. The system recited in claim 45 above, further comprises:

2 conveying means for conveying funds from the bidder to the seller.

1 47. The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the matching means for matching
2 the bid order for a service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract
3 further comprises identifying means for identifying service contract options for the
4 service contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder.

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1 48. The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the bid order includes a bid price
2 and further wherein the bid order identifies service contract options for the service order
3 including at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point.

1 49. The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the receiving means for receiving a
2 bid order for a service contract further comprises obtaining means for obtaining the bid
3 order from a bidder's authorized intermediary, wherein the bidder's authorized
4 intermediary represents the bidder.

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1 50. The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the seller is represented by a
2 seller's authorized intermediary.

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51. The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the matching means for matching
the bid order for a service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract
further comprises:
identifying means for identifying service contract options for the service contract
which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder, wherein the service contract options
for the service order includes at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date,
and delivery point;
searching means for searching a plurality of available service contracts for at least
one corresponding service contract, wherein the corresponding service contract includes
service contract options that correspond to the service contract which is the subject of the
bid from the bidder;
identifying means for identifying at least one corresponding service contract from
the plurality of available service contract;
comparing means for comparing a bid price associated with the bid order with
each ask price associated with each ask order for the identified at least one corresponding
service contract; and
identifying means for identifying at least one corresponding service contract
having a price match, wherein the ask price of the ask order associated with the at least
one corresponding service contract is lower than or equal to the bid price associated with
the bid order.

52. The system recited in claim 46 above, wherein conveying funds from the bidder
to the seller further comprises:
receiving means for receiving notification of a price match between a bid order
from a bidder and an ask order from a seller;
debiting means for debiting a bidder's authorized intermediary; and
crediting means for crediting a seller's authorized intermediary.

sub 33. The system recited in claim 52 above, wherein the transferring means for
transferring ownership of the corresponding service contract to the bidder further
comprises:
receiving means for receiving notification of funds being transferred from the
bidder to the seller for the corresponding service contract;
accessing means for accessing a title record for the corresponding service
contract; and
updating means for updating the title record for the corresponding service contract
to reflect the bidder as the owner of the corresponding service contract.

1 54. The system recited in claim 45 above, further comprising:
2 issuing means for issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

sub 55. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
comprising:
receiving means for receiving an ask order associated with a seller's service
contract, wherein the ask order originates from a seller;
entering means for entering the ask order in a service contract database containing
a plurality of ask orders, each ask order associated with a service contract;
receiving means for receiving a bid order for a buyer's service contract;
searching means for searching the service contract database on the basis of the bid
order;
matching means for matching the bid order to the ask order; and
recording means for recording ownership changes of the seller's service contract.

1 56. The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein the ask order identifies the seller's
2 service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and
3 delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes an ask price.

sub 91 57. The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein receiving an ask order associated
2 with a seller's service contract further comprises:
3 receiving means for receiving the seller's identity;
4 receiving means for receiving an ask price from the ask order;
5 receiving means for receiving a description of the seller's service contract
6 including at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point;
7 and
8 receiving means for receiving a title to the seller's service contract.

1 58. The system recited in claim 55 above, further comprises:
2 transmitting means for transmitting an identity of the last owner of record to the
3 seller.

1 59. The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein transferring ownership of the
2 seller's service contract to the bidder further comprises:
3 issuing means for issuing a certificate of title to a buyer.

1 60. The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein receiving an ask order associated
2 with a seller's service contract further comprises:
3 receiving means for receiving the seller's identity;
4 receiving means for receiving a royalty owners identity;
5 receiving means for receiving an ask price from the ask order; and
6 receiving means for receiving a description of the seller's service contract
7 including a royalty fee.

1 61. The system recited in claim 55 above, prior to recording ownership of the seller's
2 service contract, method further comprises:
3 conveying means for conveying funds for the seller's service contract.

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62. The system recited in claim 61 above, the conveying means for conveying funds
2 for the seller's service contract further comprises:
3 transferring means for transferring funds from the buyer to the seller; and
4 escrowing means for escrowing funds for a royalty owner based on a royalty fee.

1 63. The system recited in claim 55, further comprises:
2 transmitting means for transmitting an identity of a last title holder of record to
3 the seller.

1 64. The system recited in claim 55, further comprises:
2 issuing means for issuing a certificate of title to the buyer; and
3 transmitting means for transmitting an identity of the buyer to the seller.

1 65. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
2 comprising:
3 receiving means for receiving an ask order for a seller's service contract;
4 receiving means for receiving a bid order for a buyer's service contract;
5 matching means for matching the bid order with the ask order;
6 determining means for determining whether to process the seller's service contract
7 is in a cash market or a futures market in response to matching the bid order with the ask
8 order; and
9 processing means for processing the seller's service contract based on whether the
10 seller's service contract is processed in a cash market or a futures market.

1 66. The system recited in claim 65, wherein the seller's service contract is a
2 transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction;
3 transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and
4 leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services;
5 management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste

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7 management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social
8 assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public
9 administration; and other services.

1 67. The system recited in claim 65, the processing means for processing the seller's
2 service contract further comprises:

3 transferring means for transferring funds from the buyer to the seller; and
4 transferring means for transferring tracking ownership of the seller's service
5 contract to the buyer following transferring funds from the buyer to the seller.

1 68. The system recited in claim 65, the processing means for processing the seller's
2 service contract further comprises:

3 calculating means for calculating mark to market time, wherein all futures service
4 contracts are processed at mark to market time;
5 determining whether present time is equal mark to market time;
6 transferring means for transferring funds from the buyer to the seller on the basis
7 of present time being equal mark to market time; and
8 transferring means for transferring ownership of the seller's service contract to the
9 buyer in response to transferring funds from the buyer to the seller.

1 69. The system recited in claim 65, wherein the determining means for determining
2 whether to process the seller's service contract is in a cash market or a futures market
3 further comprises:

4 getting means for getting a ripe time value for the seller's service contract,
5 wherein the ripe time value is an amount of time prior to delivery time that the seller's
6 service contract must be processed in a cash market;

7 determining means for determining a performance time value, wherein the
8 performance time value is the amount of time from the present time until delivery time
9 and date of the seller's service contract;

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11 comparing means for comparing the performance time value with the ripe time
12 value for the seller's contract, wherein the seller's service contract is processed in a
13 futures market only if the performance time value is greater than the ripe time value,
otherwise the seller's contract is processed in a cash market.

1 70. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
2 comprising:
3 receiving means for receiving an ask order from a seller for a seller's service
4 contract;
5 receiving means for receiving a bid order from a buyer for a buyer's contract;
6 matching means for matching the bid order with the ask order;
7 transferring means for transferring funds from the buyer to the seller in response
8 to matching the bid order with the ask order; and
9 transferring means for transferring ownership of the seller's service contract to the
10 buyer in response to transferring funds from the buyer to the seller.

1 71. The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein the buyer is the first buyer, the bid
2 order is the first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order, the buyer's contract is a first
3 buyer's contract and the system further comprises:
4 receiving means for receiving a second ask order from the buyer for the seller's
5 service contract;
6 receiving means for receiving a second bid order from a second buyer for a
7 second buyer's contract;
8 matching means for matching the second bid order with the second ask order;
9 transferring means for transferring funds from the second buyer to the first buyer
10 in response to matching the second bid order with the second ask order; and
11 transferring means for transferring ownership of the seller's service contract to the
12 second buyer in response to transferring funds from the second buyer to the buyer.

1 72. The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein receiving an ask order and
2 receiving a bid order further comprise electronically telecommunicating the respective
3 bid and ask orders.

1 73. The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein receiving an ask order and
2 receiving a bid order further comprise orally communicating the respective bid and ask
3 orders.

1 74. The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein matching the bid order with the
2 ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

1 75. The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein matching the bid order the ask
2 order is performed electronically.

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1 76. The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein receiving an ask order from a
2 seller is performed electronically by a seller's authorized intermediary and further
3 wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry
4 oral bargaining.

1 77. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
2 comprising:

3 transmitting means for transmitting an ask order for a seller's service contract,
4 wherein the ask order identifies a seller's service contract by at least one of service
5 quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the ask
6 order includes an ask price;

7 receiving means for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid
8 order from a buyer has matched the ask price; and

9 receiving means for receiving sales funds for ownership of the seller's service
10 contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price.

sub 5 78. The system recited in claim 77 above, wherein the seller's service contract is a
2 transferable instrument promising to provide a service at a future delivery date and
3 remote delivery point.

1 79. The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:
2 escrowing means for escrowing royalty funds for a royalty owner, wherein the
3 royalty funds are equal in amount to a royalty fee.

sub 6 80. The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:
2 receiving means for receiving information as to an identity of the buyer;
3 receiving means for receiving a demand for service from a demander;
4 identifying means for identifying the demander;
5 confirming means for confirming that the demander's identity matches the identity
6 of the buyer; and
7 performing means for performing a service for the demander.

1 81. The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:
2 receiving means for receiving notification of an issuance of a seller's service
3 contract certificate of title, wherein the seller's service contract certificate of title is one of
4 a transferable instrument and a nontransferable instrument;
5 receiving means for receiving a demand for service from a demander, wherein the
6 demander bears a certificate of title;
7 authenticating means for authenticating the certificate of title as the seller's
8 service contract certificate of title; and
9 performing means for performing a service for the demander.

1 82. The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:
2 generating means for generating a second bid order for seller's service contract
3 owned by the buyer, wherein the second bid order includes a second bid price;

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receiving means for receiving a notification that the second bid order matched an
5 ask order for the seller's service contract; and

6 making means for making available second sales funds for ownership of the
7 seller's service contract, wherein the second sales funds are equal in amount to a second
8 ask price.

1 83. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
2 comprising:

3 contracting means for contracting for a secondary service from a secondary
4 service provider;

5 generating means for generating an ask order, wherein the ask order is for a
6 seller's service contract and further wherein the ask order identifies a seller's service
7 contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery
8 point and the ask order includes an ask price and a royalty fee amount;

9 receiving means for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid
10 order from a buyer has matched the ask price; and

11 receiving means for receiving sales funds for ownership of the seller's service
12 contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price less the royalty fee.

1 84. A data processing system implemented system for implementing a service
2 contract futures exchange, comprising:

3 transmitting means for transmitting a bid order for a buyer's service contract,
4 wherein the bid order identifies a buyer's service contract by at least one of service
5 quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the bid
6 order includes a bid price;

7 receiving means for receiving an indication that an ask price associated with an
8 ask order for a seller's service contract from a seller has matched the bid price; and

9 transferring means for transferring funds for ownership of the seller's service
10 contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the bid price.

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1 85. The system recited in claim 84 above, further comprising:
2 receiving means for receiving an indication of ownership of the seller's service
3 contract.

1 86. The system recited in claim 84 above, further comprising:
2 receiving means for receiving a certificate of title for the seller's service contract,
3 wherein the seller's service contract certificate of title is one of a transferable instrument
4 entitling a bearer of the certificate of title to the seller's service upon demand.

1 87. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
2 comprising:
3 transmitting means for transmitting a conjunctive bid order, wherein the
4 conjunctive bid order identifies at least two dissimilar service contracts to form the
5 conjunctive service and further each service contract identifies at least one of service
6 quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the
7 conjunctive bid order includes a conjunctive bid price comprising a separate bid price for
8 each service contract;
9 receiving means for receiving an indication that a first ask price associated with a
10 first ask order for a first seller's service contract from a first seller has matched one bid
11 price from the conjunctive order;
12 receiving means for receiving an indication that a last ask price associated with a
13 last ask order for a last seller's service contract from a last seller has matched a last bid
14 price from the conjunctive order, thereby completely matching the conjunctive bid order;
15 and
16 transferring means for transferring funds for ownership of the first seller's service
17 contract and the last seller's service contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the
18 conjunctive bid price.

- 1 88. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
2 comprising:
3 receiving at least one bid order and at least one ask order for a service contract,
4 wherein the service contract is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at
5 least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information;
6 real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and
7 technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support
8 and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and
9 social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services;
10 public administration; and other services;
11 matching the at least one bid order to the at least one ask order for a service
12 contract, wherein a basis for matching is price of the service contract.
- 1 89. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
2 comprising:
3 a bid and ask order matching system (BAMS) for receiving at least one bid order
4 for a service contract from a bidder and at least one ask order for service contract from an
5 asker and further for matching the at least one bid order to the at least one ask order and
6 for generating a match notification.
- 1 90. A data processing system as recited in claim 89, wherein the bid and order
2 matching system (BAMS) further comprises:
3 an authorized intermediary interface for interfacing with at least one authorized
4 intermediary, wherein the authorized intermediary communicates one of the at least one
5 bid order for a service contract from the bidder and the at least one ask order for service
6 contract from the asker.
- 1 91. A data processing system as recited in claim 89, wherein the service contract is a
2 transferable contract to provide a service to an owner of the service contract relating to at

3 least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information;
4 real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and
5 technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support
6 and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and
7 social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services;
8 public administration; and other services.

1 92. A data processing system as recited in claim 89, further comprises:
2 a clearinghouse (CH) for receiving the match notification of a bid order and ask
3 order match and in response to the match notification, transferring funds from the bidder
4 to the asker, and further for communicating a fund transfer notification containing
5 information about the transfer of funds.

1 93. A data processing system as recited in claim 89, further comprises:
2 a title management system (TMS) for recording ownership of the service contract
3 in response to the match notification and for communicating an ownership notification
4 containing information about the owner of the service contract.

1 94. A data processing system as recited in claim 90, further comprises:
2 a title management system (TMS) for recording ownership of the service contract
3 in response to the funds transfer notification and for communicating an ownership
4 notification containing information about the owner of the service contract.

1 95. A data processing system as recited in claim 90, further comprises:
2 a title management system (TMS) for recording ownership of the service contract
3 in response to the funds transfer notification and for generating a transferable certificate
4 of title, wherein the transferable certificate of title represents ownership of the service
5 contract.

1 96. A data processing system as recited in claim 90, further comprises:
2 a title management system (TMS) for recording ownership of the service contract
3 in response to the funds transfer notification and for communicating an ownership
4 notification containing information about the owner of the service contract to a service
5 provider for the service contract.

1 97. A data processing system as recited in claim 90, wherein the title management
2 system (TMS) receives a title to the service contract from a service provider.

1 98. A data processing system as recited in claim 89, wherein the bid and order
2 matching system (BAMS) further comprises:
3 an electronic telecommunications interface receiving one of the at least one bid
4 order for a service contract from the bidder and the at least one ask order for service
5 contract from the asker.

1 99. A data processing system as recited in claim 89, wherein the bid and order
2 matching system (BAMS) further comprises:
3 an open outcry interface for communicating one of the at least one bid order for a
4 service contract from the bidder and the at least one ask order for service contract from
5 the asker.

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1 100. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
3 comprising:
4 receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a service contract, wherein the
5 bid order originates from a bidder;
6 matching instructions for matching the bid order for a service contract with an ask
7 order for a corresponding service contract, wherein a seller owns the corresponding
8 service contract and the ask order originates from the seller; and

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10 transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the corresponding service contract to the bidder.

1 101. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 100 above, prior to the transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the
3 corresponding service contract to the bidder further comprises:
4 conveying instructions for conveying funds from the bidder to the seller.

1 102. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 100 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order for a
3 service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract further comprises
4 identifying service contract options for the service contract which is the subject of the bid
5 order from the bidder.

1 103. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 100 above, wherein the bid order includes a bid price and further wherein the bid
3 order identifies service contract options for the service order including at least one of
4 service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point.

1 104. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 100 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a
3 service contract further comprises obtaining the bid order from a bidder's authorized
4 intermediary, wherein the bidder's authorized intermediary represents the bidder.

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1 105. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 100 above, wherein the seller is represented by a seller's authorized
3 intermediary.

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1 106. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 100 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order for a
3 service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract further comprises:
4 identifying instructions for identifying service contract options for the service
5 contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder, wherein the service
6 contract options for the service order includes at least one of service quantity, service
7 grade, delivery date, and delivery point;
8 searching instructions for searching a plurality of available service contracts for at
9 least one corresponding service contract, wherein the corresponding service contract
10 includes service contract options that correspond to the service contract which is the
11 subject of the bid from the bidder;
12 identifying instructions for identifying at least one corresponding service contract
13 from the plurality of available service contract;
14 comparing instructions for comparing a bid price associated with the bid order
15 with each ask price associated with each ask order for the identified at least one
16 corresponding service contract; and
17 identifying instructions for identifying at least one corresponding service contract
18 having a price match, wherein the ask price of the ask order associated with the at least
19 one corresponding service contract is lower than or equal to the bid price associated with
20 the bid order.

1 107. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 100 above, wherein the conveying instructions for conveying funds from the
3 bidder to the seller further comprises:
4 receiving instructions for receiving notification of a price match between a bid
5 order from a bidder and an ask order from a seller;
6 debiting instructions for debiting a bidder's authorized intermediary; and
7 crediting instructions for crediting a seller's authorized intermediary.

Sub A⁸ 1 108. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 107 above, wherein the transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the
3 corresponding service contract to the bidder further comprises:
4 receiving instructions for receiving notification of funds being transferred from
5 the bidder to the seller for the corresponding service contract;
6 accessing instructions for accessing a title record for the corresponding service
7 contract; and
8 updating instructions for updating the title record for the corresponding service
9 contract to reflect the bidder as the owner of the corresponding service contract.

1 109. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 100 above, further comprising:
3 issuing instructions for issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

Sub A⁹ 1 110. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
3 comprising:
4 receiving instructions for receiving an ask order associated with a seller's service
5 contract, wherein the ask order originates from a seller;
6 entering instructions for entering the ask order in a service contract database
7 containing a plurality of ask orders, each ask order associated with a service contract;
8 receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a buyer's service contract;
9 searching instructions for searching the service contract database on the basis of
10 the bid order;
11 matching instructions for matching the bid order to the ask order; and
12 recording instructions for recording ownership changes of the seller's service
13 contract.

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111. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 110 above, wherein the ask order identifies the seller's service contract by at
3 least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further
4 wherein the bid order includes an ask price.

112. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 110 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order
3 associated with a seller's service contract further comprises:

4 receiving instructions for receiving the seller's identity;
5 receiving instructions for receiving an ask price from the ask order;
6 receiving instructions for receiving a description of the seller's service contract
7 including at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point;
8 and
9 receiving instructions for receiving a title to the seller's service contract.

113. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 110 above, further comprises:

3 transmitting instructions for transmitting an identity of the last owner of record to
4 the seller.

114. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 110 above, wherein the transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the
3 seller's service contract to the bidder further comprises:

4 issuing instructions for issuing a certificate of title to a buyer.

115. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 110 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order
3 associated with a seller's service contract further comprises:

4 receiving instructions for receiving the seller's identity;

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- 6 receiving instructions for receiving a royalty owners identity;
7 receiving instructions for receiving an ask price from the ask order; and
8 receiving instructions for receiving a description of the seller's service contract
including a royalty fee.

- 1 116. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 110 above, prior to the recording instructions for recording ownership of the
3 seller's service contract, method further comprises:
4 conveying instructions for conveying funds for the seller's service contract.

- 1 117. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 116 above, the conveying instructions for conveying funds for the seller's service
3 contract further comprises:
4 transferring instructions for transferring funds from the buyer to the seller; and
5 escrowing instructions for escrowing funds for a royalty owner based on a royalty
6 fee.

- 1 118. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 110, further comprises:
3 transmitting instructions for transmitting an identity of a last titleholder of record
4 to the seller.

- 1 119. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 110, further comprises:
3 issuing instructions for issuing a certificate of title to the buyer; and
4 transmitting instructions for transmitting an identity of the buyer to the seller.

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120. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a
computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
comprising:
receiving instructions for receiving an ask order for a seller's service contract;
receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a buyer's service contract;
matching instructions for matching the bid order with the ask order;
determining instructions for determining whether to process the seller's service
contract is in a cash market or a futures market, in response to matching the bid order
with the ask order; and
processing instructions for processing the seller's service contract based on
whether the seller's service contract is processed in a cash market or a futures market.

121. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
in claim 120, wherein the seller's service contract is a transferable contract to provide a
service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal
services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance;
professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and
enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services;
educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation;
accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services.

122. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
in claim 120, processing instructions for processing the seller's service contract, in
response to the determination to process the seller's service contract in a cash market,
further comprises:
transferring instructions for transferring funds from the buyer to the seller; and
transferring instructions for transferring tracking ownership of the seller's service
contract to the buyer following transferring funds from the buyer to the seller.

Sub 99 123. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 120, processing instructions for processing the seller's service contract in
3 response to the determination to process the seller's service contract in a futures market,
4 further comprises:
5 calculating instructions for calculating mark to market time, wherein all futures
6 service contracts are processed at mark to market time;
7 determining instructions for determining whether present time is equal to mark to
8 market time;
9 transferring instructions for transferring funds from the buyer to the seller on the
10 basis of present time being equal to mark to market time, ; and
11 transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the seller's service contract
12 to the buyer in response to transferring funds from the buyer to the seller.

1 124. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 120, wherein the determining instructions for determining whether to process the
3 seller's service contract is in a cash market or a futures market further comprises:
4 getting instructions for getting a ripe time value for the seller's service contract,
5 wherein the ripe time value is an amount of time prior to delivery time that the seller's
6 service contract must be processed in a cash market;
7 determining instructions for determining a performance time value, wherein the
8 performance time value is the amount of time from the present time until delivery time
9 and date of the seller's service contract;
10 comparing instructions for comparing the performance time value with the ripe
11 time value for the seller's contract, wherein the seller's service contract is processed in a
12 futures market only if the performance time value is greater than the ripe time value,
13 otherwise the seller's contract is processed in a cash market.

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125. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

- receiving instructions for receiving an ask order from a seller for a seller's service contract;
- receiving instructions for receiving a bid order from a buyer for a buyer's contract;
- matching instructions for matching the bid order with the ask order;
- transferring instructions for transferring funds from the buyer to the seller in response to matching the bid order with the ask order; and
- transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the seller's service contract to the buyer in response to transferring funds from the buyer to the seller.

126. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 125 above, wherein the buyer is the first buyer, the bid order is the first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order, the buyer's contract is a first buyer's contract and the computer program product further comprises:

- receiving instructions for receiving a second ask order from the buyer for the seller's service contract;
- receiving instructions for receiving a second bid order from a second buyer for a second buyer's contract;
- matching instructions for matching the second bid order bid order with the second ask order;
- transferring instructions for transferring funds from the second buyer to the first buyer in response to matching the second bid order with the second ask order; and
- transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the seller's service contract to the second buyer in response to transferring funds from the second buyer to the buyer.

127. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 126 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order and

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3 receiving a bid order further comprise electronically telecommunicating the respective
4 bid and ask orders.

1 128. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 126 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order and
3 receiving a bid order further comprise orally communicating the respective bid and ask
4 orders.

1 129. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 126 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order with the
3 ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

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1 130. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 126 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order the ask
3 order is performed electronically.

1 131. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 126 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order from a
3 seller is performed electronically by a seller's authorized intermediary and further
4 wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry
5 oral bargaining.

1 132. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
3 comprising:
4 transmitting instructions for transmitting an ask order for a seller's service
5 contract, wherein the ask order identifies a seller's service contract by at least one of
6 service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the
7 ask order includes and ask price;

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receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a
 9 bid order from a buyer has matched the ask price; and
 10 receiving instructions for receiving sales funds for ownership of the seller's
 11 service contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price.

1 133. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
 2 in claim 132 above, wherein the seller's service contract is a transferable instrument
 3 promising to provide a service at a future delivery date and remote delivery point.

1 134. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
 2 in claim 132 above, further comprising:
 3 escrowing instructions for escrowing royalty funds for a royalty owner, wherein
 4 the royalty funds are equal in amount to a royalty fee.

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135. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
 2 in claim 132 above, further comprising:
 3 receiving instructions for receiving information as to an identity of the buyer;
 4 receiving instructions for receiving a demand for service from a demander;
 5 identifying instructions for identifying the demander;
 6 confirming instructions for confirming the demander's identity matches the
 7 identity of the buyer; and
 8 performing instructions for performing a service for the demander.

1 136. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
 2 in claim 133 above, further comprising:
 3 receiving instructions for receiving notification of an issuance of a seller's service
 4 contract certificate of title, wherein the seller's service contract certificate of title is one of
 5 a transferable instrument and a nontransferable instrument;

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7 receiving instructions for receiving a demand for service from a demander,
8 wherein the demander bears a certificate of title;
9 authenticating instructions for authenticating the certificate of title as the seller's
10 service contract certificate of title; and
performing instructions for performing a service for the demander.

1 137. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 133 above, further comprising:
3 generating instructions for generating a second bid order for seller's service
4 contract owned by the buyer, wherein the second bid order includes a second bid price;
5 receiving instructions for receiving a notification the second bid order matched an
6 ask order for the seller's service contract, and
7 making instructions for making available second sales funds for ownership of the
8 seller's service contract, wherein the second sales funds are equal in amount to a second
9 ask price.

1 138. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
3 comprising:
4 contracting instructions for contracting for a secondary service from a secondary
5 service provider;
6 generating instructions for generating an ask order, wherein the ask order is for a
7 seller's service contract and further wherein the ask order identifies a seller's service
8 contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery
9 point and the ask order includes an ask price and a royalty fee amount;
10 receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a
11 bid order from a buyer has matched the ask price; and

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12 receiving instructions for receiving sales funds for ownership of the seller's
13 service contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price less the
14 royalty fee.

1 139. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
3 comprising:

4 transmitting instructions for transmitting a bid order for a buyer's service contract,
5 wherein the bid order identifies a buyer's service contract by at least one of service
6 quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the bid
7 order includes a bid price;

8 receiving instructions for receiving an indication that an ask price associated with
9 an ask order for a seller's service contract from a seller has matched the bid price; and

10 transferring instructions for transferring funds for ownership of the seller's service
11 contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the bid price.

1 140. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 139 above, further comprising:

3 receiving instructions for receiving an indication of ownership of the seller's
4 service contract.

1 141. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited
2 in claim 139 above, further comprising:

3 receiving instructions for receiving a certificate of title for the seller's service
4 contract, wherein the seller's service contract certificate of title is one of a transferable
5 instrument entitling a bearer of the certificate of title to the seller's service upon demand.

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1 142. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
3 comprising:
4 transmitting instructions for transmitting a conjunctive bid order, wherein the
5 conjunctive bid order identifies at least two dissimilar service contracts to form the
6 conjunctive service and further each service contract identifies at least one of service
7 quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point and further wherein the
8 conjunctive bid order includes a conjunctive bid price comprising a separate bid price for
9 each service contract;
10 receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a first ask price associated
11 with a first ask order for a first seller's service contract from a first seller has matched one
12 bid price from the conjunctive order;
13 receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a last ask price associated
14 with a last ask order for a last seller's service contract from a last seller has matched a last
15 bid price from the conjunctive order, thereby completely matching the conjunctive bid
16 order; and
17 transferring instructions for transferring funds for ownership of the first seller's
18 service contract and the last seller's service contract, wherein the funds are equal in
19 amount to the conjunctive bid price.

1 143. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange,
3 comprising:
4 receiving instructions for receiving at least one bid order and at least one ask
5 order for a service contract, wherein the service contract is a transferable contract to
6 provide a service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing;
7 postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance;
8 professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and
9 enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services;

10 educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation;
11 accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services; and
12 matching instructions for matching the at least one bid order to the at least one ask
13 order for a service contract, wherein a basis for matching is a price for the service
14 contract.